

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-73. (Canceled)

74. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the antigenicity of an AAV particle for transforming a cell and/or for gene therapy, the method comprising introducing at least one modification into a structural protein of AAV, the structural protein being selected from the group consisting of AAV VP1, VP2, and VP3, wherein the modification ~~which~~ brings about a reduction in the antigenicity of the virus relative to wild-type AAV and wherein the modification modified structural protein forms AAV particles and the AAV having the modified structural protein retains ~~brings about a negligible reduction in the infectivity of the virus.~~

75-76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein the AAV is ~~derived from a virus~~ selected from the group consisting of AAV1, AAV2, AAV3, AAV4, AAV5, AAV6 ~~and other AAV serotypes derived therefrom.~~

78. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein the modification(s) is/are located on the virus surface.

79. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein the modification(s) is/are located at the N terminus of the structural protein.

80. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein the modification is based on a covalent or noncovalent linkage to the structural protein of one or more ~~high or low molecular weight~~ compound(s) selected from the group consisting of biotin, a mono- or oligosaccharide, a hydroxide group, an F_{ab} fragment, and one or more amino acid(s) or amino acid sequence(s).

81. (Canceled)

82. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein the modification is a mutation selected from the group consisting of a point mutation, a mutation of more than one amino acid, one or more deletions, one or more insertions, and a combination of these mutations.

83. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 82, wherein the modification comprises a protein or a peptide inserted into the structural protein.

84. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 83, wherein the inserted protein or peptide is ~~an immunosuppressive protein or peptide~~ selected from the group consisting of a cell membrane receptor ligand, a Rep protein or peptide, an integrin, a cytokine or receptor-binding domain of a cytokine, a growth factor, a single-chain antibody, a single-chain antibody binding to a cell surface receptor, a catecholamine, protein A or a part thereof, protein G or a part thereof, or an anti-Fc antibody or a part thereof.

85. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74, wherein the structural protein comprises at least one other modification.

86. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the modification(s) is/are brought about by one or more insertions in the XhoI cleavage site of the VP1-encoding nucleic acid.

87. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the modification(s) is/are brought about by one or more insertions in the BsrBI cleavage site of the VP1-encoding nucleic acid.

88. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the modification(s) is/are brought about by one or more deletions positioned between the BsrBI/HindII cleavage sites of the VP1-encoding nucleic acid and one or more insertions.

89. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the modification(s) is/are brought about by one or more deletions positioned between the XhoI/XhoI cleavage sites of the VP1-encoding nucleic acid comprising 62 amino acids.

90. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the modification(s) is/are brought about by one or more deletions positioned between the BsrBI/HindII cleavage sites of the VP1-encoding nucleic acid.

91. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the modification(s) is/are one or more insertions in VP3 that is/are located before and/or after at least one amino acid in a sequence selected from the group consisting of YKQIS SQSGA (SEQ ID NO: 2), YLTLN NGSQA (SEQ ID NO: 3), YYLSR TNTPS (SEQ ID NO: 4), EEKFF PQSGV (SEQ ID NO: 5), NPVAT EQYGS (SEQ ID NOS: 6, 7), LQRGN RQAAT (SEQ ID NO: 8), and NVDFV VDTNG (SEQ ID NO: 9).

92. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 74 or 85, wherein the structural protein is part of an AAV particle.

93. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claims 74 or 85, wherein the structural protein is part of an AAV capsid.